



BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING – JULY 2015

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met July 10, 2015, at the Iowa Medical Classification Center (IMCC) at Oakdale. Vice Chair Richard LaMere recognized Warden Dan Craig for a brief overview of the IMCC. Warden Craig indicated the facility serves as the reception center for all men sentenced to State prison, a forensic psychiatric hospital, a special needs unit for mentally ill offenders, a medical facility for offenders requiring care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC), general population beds, and records storage. Refer to the **Fiscal Topic** [Budget Unit: Adult Correctional Institutions](#) for a summary of each of the State prisons.

Director's Report. Director Jerry Bartruff reported that the National Institute of Corrections ([NIC](#)) and five other states' correctional employees recently visited Iowa for security audit training. The NIC will provide additional training for Iowa Department of Corrections ([DOC](#)) employees on performing security audits. Director Bartruff stated that several locations have recently passed audits for the Prison Rape Elimination Act ([PREA](#)). So far, all locations that have undergone a PREA audit have passed. The DOC focused on the FY 2016 budget in June. Salary adjustment costs were not funded. The First and Second Community-Based Corrections (CBC) District Departments each laid off two staff. Vacant positions will be managed throughout the fiscal year. The Director mentioned the Statewide Recidivism Reduction Initiative (SRRI) meeting held in June. The SRRI has an Offender Re-Entry Task Force that will provide guidance on making data-driven decisions to reduce recidivism. Click [here](#) for a **FISCAL UPDATE News Article** on the Offender Re-Entry Task Force meeting on June 19.

Inmate Escape. On July 5, an inmate escaped from the John Bennett Unit at Fort Madison. The Lee County Sheriff, Fort Madison police department, [Iowa State Patrol](#), the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) of the Department of Public Safety ([DPS](#)), and the DOC staff quickly established an incident command center and collaborated with local and state police in Iowa and other states. The inmate was apprehended at approximately 10:00 a.m. on July 5 in Illinois. He is in custody at the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) at Fort Madison. The inmate was forthcoming on how he escaped; he was on his own with no assistance from inside or outside of the Institution. Staff from across the DOC conducted a security audit to test vulnerabilities at the ISP. The [DCI](#) is also conducting an investigation of the incident.

CBC Audit. Deputy Director Dot Faust updated the Board on the CBC audit report recently released by the Office of the Auditor of State. She indicated the audit focused on leave accrual rates for noncontract staff. Representatives of the DOC and the Office of the Attorney General are reviewing the four recommendations made in the report. Click [here](#) for a **FISCAL UPDATE News Article** on the State Auditor Report on CBC. Click [here](#) to view the report.

IT Audit. Deputy Director Brad Hier reviewed the Information Technology (IT) audit report recently released by the Office of the Auditor of State. The audit reviewed IT systems for the Departments of Revenue ([DOR](#)), Administrative Services ([DAS](#)), the DOC, and the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System ([IPERS](#)) to determine if the systems were appropriately planned, monitored, and cost effective. The review also addressed if the IT contracts were in compliance with Iowa law. Deputy Director Hier indicated the DOC is in compliance with Iowa law; a formal contract is in place with the vendor, ATG, through FY 2016. Other steps have been taken to address concerns raised in the report that covered the reporting period FY 2000 through FY 2014. Click [here](#) to view the report.

Budgets. Deputy Director Hier indicated the FY 2015 financial close-out is underway. Fiscal challenges included unexpected health insurance increases, unanticipated increases in generic drug costs for the central pharmacy, county confinement reimbursements, and operating two prisons at the ISP. One reallocation has occurred between the Institutions, the DOC Central Office accounts, and the CBC District Departments. Another reallocation is anticipated in August. The DOC will successfully manage the FY 2016 fiscal challenges. In addition to the FY 2015 budget issues, the DOC has faced seven years with no salary adjustment. The intent is to fill 133 vacant positions during FY 2016. There were 95.6 FTE

positions eliminated before the FY 2016 budget was formalized to generate approximately \$8.0 million in savings. The positions impacted the Institutions (78 positions), CBC District Departments (17 positions), and one in Central Office. In addition to salary adjustment costs, the FY 2016 budget challenges include:

- The county confinement appropriation is under-funded by approximately \$800,000. See the **Fiscal Topic Budget Unit: County Confinement Account** for a description of the purpose and funding of the Account.
- Operating two prisons at the ISP in Fort Madison costs approximately \$137,000 per month in additional expenses.
- The Mental Health Institutes (MHIs) at Clarinda and Mount Pleasant are being closed. The Department of Human Services ([DHS](#)) and the DOC shared expenses at these locations. The closure of the two MHIs is expected to increase costs for the DOC by approximately \$2.1 million annually. This estimate includes salary and support costs.

Inmate Telephone System. Fred Scaletta informed the Board that the inmate telephone system rates were lowered as of July 1, per the Board's action. The actual change was made July 8, but offender accounts received credits for telephone call rate differences between July 1 and July 8. Click [here](#) for the current telephone rates offenders pay. See the **Fiscal Topic Budget Unit: Telephone Rebate Fund** for the purpose, administration, offender usage, receipts, and approved expenditures by the Board of Corrections, plus additional information related to the inmate telephone system.

Inmate Telephone System FY 2016 Expenditures. Deputy Director Hier provided two budgets to the Board for its consideration of FY 2016 proposed expenditures. One proposal included telephone administration costs, translation services, and offender education and totaled approximately \$415,000. The second proposal included an apprenticeship and vocational training pilot project in addition to the other items, and totaled approximately \$523,000. After much discussion, the Board approved the second proposal.

LEAN Event. Laura Scheffert and Tamia Salvati of the IMCC provided information to the Board on a recent LEAN event completed on records administration. This function includes actual records storage plus computation of time served and adjustments to time served for disciplinary reasons, and working with the DOC staff, local law enforcement, and the judicial system. Action steps and future improvements were provided to the Board.

Health Care Costs. Dr. Deol, Medical Services Director for the DOC, presented information on admissions, chronic conditions, the aging inmate population, civil commitments, UIHC outpatient appointments, and pharmacy costs. Pharmaceutical companies have significantly increased costs for generic drugs and biologicals. The DOC pharmacy costs have increased by 10.2% over the last year. The Governor's recommendation for FY 2017 included an increase of \$1.0 million for pharmacy costs. See the **Issue Review** [DOC Centralized Pharmacy](#) for background information.

Public Comments. Marty Hathaway indicated to the Board that representatives from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees ([AFSCME](#)) met with federal employees to discuss the implementation of the federal PREA law. He stated there was an open dialogue and some changes to standards may occur.

Next Meeting. Members of the Board of Corrections discussed the election of officers. It was decided to place this item on next month's agenda. The next meeting of the Board of Corrections is scheduled for August 7 in Cedar Rapids.

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